

# EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

HONORING KAMALA HARRIS,  
AMERICA'S FIRST FEMALE,  
BLACK, AND ASIAN-AMERICAN  
VICE PRESIDENT

**HON. FREDERICA S. WILSON**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, January 12, 2021*

Ms. WILSON of Florida. Madam Speaker, I rise to congratulate KAMALA HARRIS on becoming vice president of the United States when she will be sworn into office on January 20, 2021, on the steps of the U.S. Capitol. Her journey to the White House is a path of many historic firsts.

She is the first woman; the first black woman; the first Asian-American woman; and the first graduate of an historically black university and member of the black Greek-letter organization, Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Incorporated, to serve as vice president. She also was the first black woman to be elected district attorney in California and the state's first woman to serve as attorney general. In addition, she is the second black woman to win election to the U.S. Senate.

Her motto, "You may be the first, but make sure you're not the last," are words of wisdom passed down from her mother that helped mold her into a role model who is inspiring girls and women around the globe to shatter glass ceilings of their own.

The vice president will, however, be both "the first and last in the room" as she and President Joe Biden address the converging crises our nation is currently facing: COVID-19, an economic downturn, and racial injustice.

Vice President HARRIS's commitment to leveraging every aspect of the federal government to improve outcomes for men and boys of color also is commendable.

During the 116th Congress, we joined forces to pass an historic, bipartisan piece of legislation that created the Commission on the Social Status of Black Men and Boys. I look forward to working with her to enact this legislation and form a thriving commission that will address pressing racial inequities and shape landmark legislation.

She will be honored for being a champion for boys and men of color at the 5000 Role Models of Excellence Project's 28th Annual Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Scholarship Breakfast on January 18, 2021. The 5000 Role Models of Excellence Project is an in-school, dropout prevention and mentoring program serving thousands of boys of color.

Vice President HARRIS's career in public service began long before she was elected to office. Thirteen-year-old KAMALA successfully organized the children at her apartment complex to protest not being allowed to play in the building's grassy courtyard. She turned this burgeoning passion into a thriving career after earning a bachelor's degree in political science at Howard University and a law degree at the University of California's Hastings

College of Law. It is an honor and a joy to call our vice president my Alpha Kappa Alpha sorority sister and dear friend.

HONORING BRUCE HAMMOCK

**HON. JOHN GARAMENDI**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, January 12, 2021*

Mr. GARAMENDI. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Bruce Hammock and his exemplary interdisciplinary career. He has been a legendary figure in his field for over four decades and his efforts have made critical advancements in our understanding of neurodegenerative diseases, non-addictive solutions to managing chronic pain, and environmental conservation.

Dr. Hammock's recent research on regulatory enzyme inhibitors and their effect on neuroinflammation has reshaped the way we understand both the cause and cure of the degenerative disease. Alongside his UC Davis team, Dr. Hammock partnered with Baylor University as well as other researchers across the globe to study soluble epoxide hydrolase (sEH) and its effect on the brains of mice. Dr. Hammock's study found that inhibiting sEH may offer a new pathway to reduce neuroinflammation and neurodegeneration; leading to a breakthrough in recognizing the potential benefits of sEH inhibitors in Alzheimer's treatment.

Groundbreaking research is nothing new in the world of Dr. Hammock. He is currently a distinguished professor at UC Davis in the Department of Entomology and Nematology and part of the UC Davis Comprehensive Cancer Center. During his time at the university Hammock has been at the helm of the Superfund Research Program for over three decades—a government-funded program focused on finding solutions to the complex health and environmental issues linked with the nation's hazardous waste sites.

In addition to his invaluable contributions to science, Dr. Hammock has taken up another admirable charge—to make science and learning fun. Every year he and his lab organize a water balloon fight between faculty and students on the lawn of UC Davis' Briggs Hall where other labs and bystanders join in on the action. This event is a small glimpse into Hammock's unique character—one described by colleagues as enthusiastic, creative, and hard-working.

Dr. Hammock's limitless drive and curiosity contribute both to the stellar reputation of UC Davis as an esteemed research institute and California's 3rd Congressional District as a whole. We wish him all the best in his endeavors and look forward to seeing all that he accomplishes in the future.

HONORING THE LIFE OF ROSE  
MATSUI OCHI

**HON. JUDY CHU**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, January 12, 2021*

Ms. CHU. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of Rose Matsui Ochi, who passed away on December 13, 2020, at the age of 81. Rose was a dedicated public servant, a longtime constituent of mine in Monterey Park, California, and a dear friend.

Rose was born on December 15, 1938, in East Los Angeles, but her early childhood was spent imprisoned at Rohwer concentration camp in Arkansas along with countless other Japanese Americans during World War II. This childhood experience with systemic racism helped forge her passion for social justice and solidified her determination to break barriers. At a time when people of color were not expected or encouraged to seek higher education, Rose graduated from UCLA in 1959 and received her graduate degree in education from Cal State Los Angeles in 1967. After witnessing the 1968 East L.A. walkouts by Latino students demanding equal conditions in schools, Rose was inspired to pursue a career in law to create a more just and equitable society. She graduated from Loyola Law School in 1972 and was admitted to the California Bar that year.

Seen by many as a rising star who possessed an incredible legal mind, Rose quickly became involved in public policy at the federal level. In 1979, she was appointed to President Carter's Select Commission on Immigration and Refugee Policy, where she pushed for immigration reform and helped secure a pathway to citizenship for thousands of undocumented immigrants. She then took from her childhood experiences and helped secure a federal apology and redress for Japanese American detention camp survivors in 1988. And in 1997, Rose was confirmed by the U.S. Senate to be the director of the Community Relations Service at the Department of Justice, becoming the first Asian-American woman to serve as an assistant attorney general.

She also had incredible achievements in her service to Los Angeles communities. She served for two decades as the director of the City's criminal justice office, where she helped reduce gang violence by supporting programs for at-risk youth, designed successful community policing methods, and increased the number of women and officers of color within the Los Angeles Police Department. And in 2001, she broke yet another barrier by becoming the first Asian American woman to serve on the Los Angeles Police Commission.

On top of her long list of accomplishments, Rose Ochi paved the way for people like me. There were so few Asian-American women in leadership positions as I was growing up that I never dreamed I could be an elected official,

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